

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-85 (Cancelled)

86. (Currently amended) A double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) ~~having~~ comprising a complementary RNA strand S1 which is complementary at least in segments to a target gene (the antisense strand), a sense RNA strand S2 which is at least substantially complementary to the strand S1 (the sense strand), wherein the dsRNA is capable of inhibiting the expression of the target gene upon introduction into a cell expressing said target gene, and wherein at least only one lipophilic group having a logK_{ow} exceeding 1, is linked only to the strand S1, or only to the strand S2 wherein the complementary RNA strand has a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a target RNA, and wherein the target RNA is an mRNA transcript of a target gene or of a (+) strand RNA virus, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to a 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand and the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a phosphodiester group or wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to a 5'-end of the sense RNA strand.

87. (Cancelled)

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim ~~87~~ 86, wherein the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense RNA ~~dsRNA~~ strand comprises a phosphodiester group.

90. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim ~~87~~ 86, wherein ~~the linkage between the lipophilic group is covalently attached to the 5'-end of sense RNA and the dsRNA strand and the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand~~ does not comprise a phosphodiester group.

91. (Cancelled)

92. (Cancelled)

93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is a steroid or a branched aliphatic hydrocarbon, or a combination thereof.

95. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 94, wherein the lipophilic group is a sterol.

96. (Previously presented) The dsRNA of claim 95, wherein the sterol is cholesterol or a cholesterol derivative.

97. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 96, wherein the lipophilic group is cholesteryl (6-hydroxyhexyl) carbamate or 12-hydroxydodecanoic acid bisdecylamide.

98. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group is ~~12-hydroxydodecanoic acid bisdecylamide~~ selected from the group consisting of an aromatic, aliphatic or alicyclic moiety, or a combination thereof.

99. (Cancelled)

100. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding ~~2~~ 1.5.

101. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding ~~3~~ 2.

102. (Currently amended) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the lipophilic group has a $\log K_{ow}$ exceeding ~~5~~ 3.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Cancelled)

105. (Cancelled)

106. (Cancelled)

107. (Cancelled)

108. (Cancelled)

109. (Cancelled)

110. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.

111. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the complementary RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, and wherein the 3'-end has a nucleotide overhang of 1 or 2 nucleotides.

112. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein each of the complementary RNA strand and the sense RNA strand comprises a 3'-end and a 5'-end, wherein the lipophilic group is covalently attached to the 5'-end of the sense RNA strand, and wherein the 3'-end of the complementary RNA strand comprises a nucleotide overhang of 1 to 4 nucleotides.

113. (New) The dsRNA of claim 112, wherein the linkage between the lipophilic group and the 5'-end of the sense strand does not comprise a phosphodiester group.

114. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 30 nucleotides in length.

115. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 16 and 25 nucleotides in length.

116. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the dsRNA is between 20 and 25 nucleotides in length.

117. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target gene is expressed in a cell selected from the group consisting of a hepatocyte, a pancreatic cell, a uterine cell, a cell of a cervix, and a cell of a urinary bladder.

118. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the (+) strand RNA virus is a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).

119. (New) The dsRNA of claim 86, wherein the target gene is at least a portion of a 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).